



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/759,423	01/12/2001	Paul Green	PGR-100	2318

23557 7590 11/10/2004

SALIWANCHIK LLOYD & SALIWANCHIK
A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 142950
GAINESVILLE, FL 32614-2950

EXAMINER

WATSON, ROBERT C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3723

DATE MAILED: 11/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/759,423

Applicant(s)

GREEN, PAUL

Examiner

Robert C. Watson

Art Unit

3723

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 October 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 21-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 23-37 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12, 21-22, and 38-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

The affidavit under 37 CFR 1.132 filed 3/26/04 is insufficient to overcome the rejection of claims 1-12, 21-22, and 38-41 based upon Sweetland, Linton et al, and Ebey as set forth in the last Office action because:

It refer(s) only to the system described in the above referenced application and not to the individual claims of the application. Thus, there is no showing that the objective evidence of nonobviousness is commensurate in scope with the claims. See MPEP § 716.

Claims 39-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The recitation in the claims that "the A-frame coupler is designed to couple to a hitch ball", and the reference to "a ball socket" is new matter.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-2, 21-22, and 38-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sweetland in view of Linton et al.

Sweetland shows a jack removably coupled to an A-frame coupler of a trailer. The A-frame coupler is supported by a vehicle by a suitable coupling mechanism.

Linton et al shows a vehicle jack selectively mountable on a vehicle. The mounting arrangement comprises a first piece 38 mounted to the vehicle and a second piece 32 mounted to the vehicle jack. The second piece can transition between a plurality of vertical positions relative to the first piece by virtue of the plural vertically spaced apertures 36 on the second piece. Pins 42 provide a means for releasably securing the second piece selectively relative to the first piece.

To employ anywhere on the Sweetland vehicle A-frame coupler a first piece mounted to the vehicle and a second piece mounted to the vehicle jack would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made in view of the disclosure of Linton. Any frame member on the front of the vehicle may be termed an A-frame coupler. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this in order to enable the A-frame mounted jack of Sweetland to be able to transition between a plurality of vertical positions such that the jack will be initially positioned at a correct vertical position relative to the ground before jacking is begun. The type of coupling mechanism between the A-frame coupler and the vehicle is no more than an obvious matter of design choice absent a showing of criticality for this feature inasmuch as a variety of such coupling mechanisms are well known and obvious.

Recitations in the claim as to details of the vehicle A-frame having a hole have not been given patentable weight since this is not part of the trailer jack mounting apparatus. In any case, the Sweetland vehicle A-frame has a hole 25.

Claims 3-12 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sweetland in view of Linton et al as above applied taken with Ebey.

The Sweetland in view of Linton et al mount arrangement as above applied lacks a means of selectively pivoting the jack to a horizontal or stored position.

Ebey teaches that by virtue of providing mating apertures and a locking pin a jack can be selectively pivotable between a horizontal position and a vertical position.

To provide addition mating holes in the first or second mounting pieces of Linton et al so as to enable the vehicle jack to be pivoted between a horizontal and a vertical position would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made in view of the disclosure of Ebey. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this in order to enable the jack to be conveniently pivoted from a use to a stored position. Ebey teaches that the mounts may be removeably mounted while Linton et al teaches that the mounts may be permanently mounted. It is no more than an obvious matter of choice to select either of these mounting arrangements absent a showing of criticality.

Claims 23-37 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made by original presentation of claims and no traverse has been made.

Applicant's remarks have been given careful consideration. However, these remarks are not persuasive that any error has been made in the rejection(s).

Applicant's remarks that the Linton et al jack mounting arrangement would not function in a trailer is certainly found to have absolutely no merit. The jack mounting arrangement teachings of Linton et al has universal application to all vehicles. Indeed,

Linton et al states in column 1, line 8 that the jack mounting arrangement is for "a vehicle". Applicant further argues that purpose of the Sweetland reference is defeated by modifying the jack mounting arrangement in the manner taught by Linton et al. The primary purpose of the jack in Sweetland is for raising the vehicle so the purpose of the jack in Sweetland indeed has not been defeated by the Linton et al modification. In any case, the elimination of a feature with the consequent loss of its function (ie., the removability of the jack) is an indication of obviousness. Further, applicant argues that there is no motivation to combine the references. The rejection of record clearly sets forth the motivation for combining the references. Lastly, applicant's arguments are not commensurate with the extremely broad scope of claim 1. Applicant is merely claiming a first piece and a second piece, whereby the first and second pieces can transition between a plurality of positions. Applicant cannot argue that this broad recitation is not shown in Linton et al. The mere choice of the vehicle in which the pieces are mounted such as a vehicle having an A-frame coupler does not make these elements patentable in view of the fact that jacks already exist on vehicles having A-frame couplers as demonstrated by Sweetland.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the

Art Unit: 3723


shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert C. Watson whose telephone number is 703 308-1747. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Thurs. , 5:30am - 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph J. Hail III can be reached on 703 308-2687. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

rcw


ROBERT C. WATSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER